

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /105 W
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P R 302200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1162

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1855

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY, MARCH 23-30, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 1753

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. THIS WEEK'S DOMINANT POLITICAL NEWS ITEM IS THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR NOON APRIL 1 AT THE MASAYA HOME OF POLITICAL SECRETARY LACAYO MAISON. LOBBYING BY THE RIVAL FACTIONS HAS BEEN INTENSE. AGUERO TAKES THE POSITION THAT THE REAL ISSUE IS " WHO WILL CONTROL THE PCN-- SOMOZA OR THE CONSERVATIVES". PAGUAGA SAYS THAT THE ISSUE IS AGUERO; HIS DICTATORIAL CONTROL OF THE PARTY AND HIS FAILURE TO WISELY LEAD IT FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE. PAGUAGA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 28 THAT HE HAS OVER 100 OF THE 247 DELEGATES, IS CONFIDENT OF VICTORY AND WILL EVEN HAVE HIS DELEGATES ATTEND THE MEETING TO PREVENT THEIR BEING REPLACED BY ALTERNATES SYMPATHETIC TO AGUERO. AGUERO CLAIMS PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FROM 197 DELEGATES AND EXPECTS TO CONTROL THE MEETING. THE AGUERO PROGRAM REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR A VOTE APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF PAGUAGA, CHAMORRO, CUADRA AND HERDOCIA
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FROM THEIR OFFICES AND DISAFFILIATING THEM FROM THE PARTY, A DECLARATION DENOUNCING VIOLATION OF THE POLITICAL PACT BY SOMOZA AND THE LIBERAL PARTY AND A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN AGUERO AND PARTY OFFICIALS LOYAL TO HIM. SOURCES REPORT THAT THE CONVENTION MAY ALSO PASS A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO REMOVE PAGUAGA AS THE PCN' S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL AND NAMING SOMEONE OTHER THAN AGUERO TO REPLACE HIM.

COMMENT: IF THE PAGUAGISTAS ACTUALLY SHOW UP , THE CONVENTION COULD BE A REAL DONNYBROOK. WEEDING OUT THE TRUTH OF WHAT TRANSPIRES FROM THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MADE WILL BE DIFFICULT, THOUGH BOTH SIDES SAY THEY WILL FULLY PUBLICIZE THE NAMES OF DELEGATES SUPPORTING THEM AND AGUERO PLANS TO TAPE RECORD THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS. MOST PRE- GAME PREDICTION GIVE AGUERO A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES, THOUGH MANY MAY CHOOSE TO SIT IT OUT ON THE SIDELINES. END COMMENT.

2. THE MARCH 25 OTHER OPPOSITION MEETING IN GRANADA, REPORTED IN LAST WEEK' S SUMMARY, WAS APPARENTLY NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL SINCE NONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FIGURES ATTENDED. REPORTS OF SECRET MEETINGS BETWEEN DISSIDENT CONSERVATIVE PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AND DISSIDENT LIBERAL RAMIRO SACASA INDICATE THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DEVISE A NEW APPROACH TO OFFER OTHER OPPOSTION ELEMENTS. SHELTON

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